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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Terror targets Italians in Nasiriye - Milliyet
Bush urges IGC to hurry on constitution - Milliyet
Bush seeking an alternative to IGC - Turkiye
Bloodbath in Iraq, Italy in shock - Turkey
CIA warns that Shiites might join Iraq resistance - Milliyet
Talabani wants interim Iraqi government fast - Vatan

OPINION MAKERS

Washington might dissolve the IGC - Cumhuriyet
Soros to give millions of dollars to Bush opponents -
Radikal
US considers 'Afghan model' for Iraq - Zaman
CIA admits failure in Iraq - Yeni Safak
FM Gul: Turkey will protect Iraqi Kurds - Zaman
US sanctions on Syria - Radikal
Medact announces 55,000 civilian casualties in Iraq - Yeni
Safak
TRNC elections will be a vote of confidence - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Cyprus: Prime Minister Erdogan will pay a visit to the
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) November 15 to
meet with Denktas and opposition leaders. Papers claim that
Erdogan will give all sides in the TRNC the message that
negotiations should be resumed within the framework of the
Annan Plan no matter which party emerges victorious from the
Turkish Cypriot elections in December. "Zaman" says that
Ankara will offer to reduce gradually the number of Turkish
troops in Cyprus and, in exchange, Turkey would retain its
guarantor status on the island.

The Loizidu case: The Council of Europe warned Ankara to
abide by a European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruling
obliging Turkey to pay \$900,000 in reparations to a Greek
Cypriot national, Titina Loizidu, for her loss of property
after the occupation of northern Cyprus by the Turks in
[1974](#). Council of Europe officials reportedly said that
Turkey would face serious sanctions if the money is not paid
by November 19, and that such a refusal would constitute a
violation of the EU Copenhagen Criteria. Ankara has agreed
to pay the fee, but has asked that issues concerning
property rights in the lawsuit not be raised until the end
of 2005. Ankara is worried that the verdict could set a
precedent for thousands of similar applications who have
cases pending before the ECHR.

Kurds block hospital construction in Kirkuk: The city
council of Kirkuk rejected a Turkish proposal to build a
hospital in Kirkuk, "Zaman" reports. An AK Party lawmaker
in charge of the project, Turhan Comez, believes the refusal
was the result of opposition by Kurdish members of the
council. "Milliyet" reports that 9 Kurds serving on the
council voted against the proposal, while 6 non-Kurds voted
to support it and 8 members abstained.

PKK/KADEK militants in Turkey: "Cumhuriyet" claims that

KADEK has sent 2,500 militants to southern and eastern provinces of Turkey from Iraq since March 2003. The militants have been instructed to organize street protests and to assassinate local government officials. Pro-Kurdish DEHAP members have also intensified protest demonstrations, the latest one being staged in major provinces to protest the deteriorating health condition of jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan. The paper expects the militants to intensify their activities in Turkey after December 4.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Elections 2004

"The Bush Fans"

Soli Ozel wrote in mass appeal Sabah (11/13): "The American intellectual elite is concerned that the re-election of the current administration in November 2004 would be a disaster for the country. On the other hand, the Bush administration is going through a period of internal conflict. Several agencies, including the CIA, have stood up to defend themselves against the criticism they have faced since the Iraq war. The State Department, which stood against the war from the start, is trying to regain control over foreign policy in Washington. There is also a growing reaction against several religious fundamentalist figures within the administration. . As for the economy, the Bush administration has created a 300 billion dollar budget deficit in just three years. This poses a major problem for the future of the US economy. The latest figures indicate that one-third of US national income is controlled by foreigners. That is another weakness for the American economy. . The upcoming elections will tell us how the US will shape its future as a superpower. The Bush administration is characterized by religious fundamentalism and an irresponsible foreign policy. The election defeat of this administration seems to be not only in the US interest, but also would benefit the whole world. The fact of the matter is that now Democrats have a tough job to accomplish: finding a good candidate to defeat Bush."

EDELMAN